

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2 and 3 and replace original sheets 1 and 2. In Figs. 1-3, labels have been added to the blocks per the Examiner's express request.

Attachments: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Objections to the drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(o). Applicants hereby submit replacement figures 1-3 to overcome these objections.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 4, 14-16 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that these claims are not clear, but in the interest of passing this case to issue have amended 4, 14-16 and 24 to make the objected-to terminology even clearer. Applicants thus submit that this rejection is now moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 13, 18, 21-23 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,822,435 to Boebert et al. In particular, the Examiner finds that, with regard to claims 1 and 21, Boebert discloses all of the claimed limitations. Applicants have reviewed the reference with care, paying particular attention to the passages cited, and are compelled to respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of this reference.

For instance, claims 1 and 21 both recite a shared communications infrastructure by which the hardware modules can communicate with each other, and a first communication path that is distinct from the shared communication infrastructure and by which a hardware module can communicate directly with the trusted hardware module but cannot communicate directly with any other of the hardware modules. The Examiner asserts that such a shared communications infrastructure is disclosed by Boebert in the "paths 44, 46 which connect the

workstation processing unit to the display/video manager, keyboard/keyboard manager.” However, this assertion is clearly at odds with the plain disclosure of Boebert.

What the Examiner terms “paths 44, 46” are shown in both Fig. 1 (which shows a prior art system) and Figs. 2-5 (which show embodiments of Boebert’s invention and are described at col. 2, ll. 3-4, a “video port” and “keyboard port” respectively. No person skilled in the art could possibly understand a video or keyboard port as corresponding to a shared communication infrastructure, especially in view of the figures of Boebert which clearly show both elements 44 and 46 as straight lines or paths between two components only. Applicants note that labels 44 and 46 appears to be used for different paths in the different figures; nonetheless, they are always shown as connecting two devices only, and there is simply nothing in Boebert that could be understood that either of element 44 or 46 comprise a shared communication infrastructure. Such a structure is described in Applicants’ specification by conventional communication paths 110, examples for which are given as ISA, EISA, PCI, and USB paths, which are well known by those skilled in the art to refer to communication buses that connect a plurality of components of a computing platform. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 1 and 21 are in fact patentable over Boebert because Boebert does not disclose, *inter alia*, a shared communication infrastructure as per the claims. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicants respectfully request him to clearly and specifically point out where Boebert discloses this feature in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.104(c)2.

Claims 2-3, 5-6, 13, 18, 22-23 and 25-26 depend from claim 1 or 21. In view of the above discussion, it is submitted that claims 1 and 21 are allowable, and for this reason claims 2-3, 5-6, 13, 18, 22-23 and 25-26 are also allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 4, 7-12, 14-17, 19-20, 24 and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boebert. Without otherwise agreeing with the Examiner’s statements, Applicants note that these claims depend from claim 1 or 21. “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above

discussion of claims 1 and 21, Applicants submit that claims 4, 7-12, 14-17, 19-20, 24 and 27-30 are also allowable.

Regarding the prior art made of record by the Examiner but not relied upon, Applicants believe that this art does not render the pending claims unpatentable.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 08-2025. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

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(Date of Transmission)

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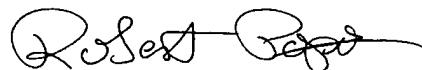


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9/23/05

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Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments